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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--|-------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 10/621,772 | 07/17/2003 | Wayne Patrick O'Brien | 064749.0152 | 1688 |
| 5073 | 7590 | 02/03/2010 | | |
| BAKER BOTTS L.L.P. 2001 ROSS AVENUE SUITE 600 DALLAS, TX 75201-2980 | | | EXAMINER WEI, ZHENG | |
| | | | ART UNIT 2192 | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | NOTIFICATION DATE 02/03/2010 | DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/621,772

Applicant(s)

O'BRIEN, WAYNE PATRICK

Examiner

ZHENG WEI

Art Unit

2192

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 October 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/CD)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Remarks

1. This office action is in response to the amendment filed on 10/01/2009.
2. Claims 1, 7, 13, 19-21, 25, 29, 33 and 34 have been amended.
3. Claims 1-34 remain pending and have been examined.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed on 10/01/2009, in particular on pages 20-21, have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. For example:
 - At page 20, section "Section 103 Rejection", Applicant submits that Garloff as modified by the Examiner fails to disclose, teach, or suggest the elements of Applicant's claims. Because Garloff discloses objects and classes used to fully define the functionality and operation of an application, but not rules expressed as a narrative description form which substantially all solutions of a solution space can be generated. However, Examiner's position is that the specification including objects and supporting Classes, Process Models and functions is "used to fully define the functionality and operations of the application that is being built". "Specification of objects entails filling in Attribute Values, adding Subobjects, adding process Models, modifying Methods, and adding Methods". "The developer may choose to create some Classes and Process Models that make the specifications clearer or easier. There Classes and Process Models, then may be considered a part of the specification. A

Developer may also choose to create or use Functions as part of the Specification" [emphasis added] (see for example, col.4, lines 50-60). That is, the Garloff's specification including narrative description objects or user created objects or functions with filling the required attribute value, adding required methods and further generating/building the Target Application based on the specification which is equivalent to the limitations about all solutions of the solution space can be generated from the domain rules as recited.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claim 1-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable by Garloff (Garloff et al., US 5,699,310).

Claim 1:

Garloff discloses a method, a system and procedure logic for designing a computer program, comprising:

- accessing a substantially complete set of domain rules, each domain rule (GENERATION KNOWLEDGE BASE) being invariant and expressed as a narrative description (see for example, Fig.1A, Fig.1B, "GENERATION KNOWLEDGE BASES INCLUDE: GENERATION RULES" and related text;

- also see Fig.2, "OPEN KBASE(S) AND DISPLAY INITIAL WINDOW" and related text; also see col.31, line 27-col.32, line 18 about computer system);
- defining a domain from the domain rules, (see for example, col.4, lines50-60, "The Developer writes the specifications and store them in the Specifications Knowledge Base" and related text; also see col.3, lines 18-20, "The Developer can also use the Operator Interface to add his own specifications to the Specification Knowledge Base");
 - identifying one or more requirements of the domain from one or more supplemental sources (see for example, Col.4, lines 38-40, "By adding a Process Model, we are adding the Methods needed to perform a specific task");
 - generating a model that established the requirements of the domain (see for example, Fig.11, a model of an object and related text; also see col.4, lines 57-62, "The Developer may choose to create some Classes and Process Models that make the specification clearer or easier to completer. These Classes and Process Models then may be considered a part of the specification.");
 - accessing a plurality of business rules, each business rule (DESIGN KNOWLEDGE BASES and SPECIFICATIONS KNOWLEDGE BASE) being variable, the plurality of business rules comprising a plurality of rules of engagement (rules in KBASES)(see for example, Fig.2, "OPEN KBASE(S) AND DISPLAY INITIAL WINDOW" and related text);

- associating the one or more business rules with the model (see for example, Fig.1A, Fig.1B, "DESIGN KNOWLEDGE BASES", "SPECIFICATIONS KNOWLEDGE BASE", "INHERITANCE ENGINE" and related text);
- generating a code corresponding to the model in order to design a computer program (see for example, Fig.1A, "GENERATION PROCESS", "SOURCE CODE" and related text).

But does not explicitly disclose the domain used to determine a problem space and a solution space, substantially all solutions of the solution space can be generated from the substantially complete set of domain rules. However, Garloff also discloses the domain (specification) which is used to fully define the functionality and operations of the application that is being built (the Target Application) and "Specification of objects entails filling in Attribute Values, adding Subobjectes, adding process Models, modifying Methods, and adding Methods". "The developer may choose to create some Classes and Process Models that make the specifications clearer or easier. These Classes and Process Models, then may be considered a part of the specification. A Developer may also choose to create or use Functions as part of the Specification" (see for example, col.4, lines 50-60). That is, the Garloff's specification including narrative description objects or user created objects or functions required filling the attribute value, adding required methods and further generating/building the Target Application based on the specification. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to understand that such specification including objects,

classes and process models is used to determine the problem and solution space (methods/functionality of objects) and also can generate developer created objects/functions in the specification (solutions) (see for example, col.4, col.4, lines 34-36, "For example, a Process Model may be added to a Window to provide the functionality needed to start another Window.")

Claim 2:

Garloff further discloses the method of claim 1, further comprising:

- collecting the domain rules and the business rules (see for example, Fig.1A, Fig.1B, "DESIGN KNOWLEDGE BASES", "SPECIFICATIONS KNOWLEDGE BASE", "GENERATION KNOWLEDGE BASES", "INHERITANCE ENGINE" and related text);
- allocating the domain rules and the business rules to a plurality of use cases;
- realizing the use cases (see for example, Fig.7A and related text); and
- assessing the domain rules and the business rules in accordance with the realization (see for example, Fig.2, "CHECK SPECIFICATIONS", Fig.6 and related text).

Claim 3:

Garloff also discloses the method of claim 1, further comprising:

- checking a syntax of the code (see for example, Fig.6 and related text, also see col.9, line 66- col.10, line 2, "reviewing Methods for proper syntax"); and

- providing a notification if a syntax error is detected (see for example, Fig.6, "DISPLAY ERRORS" and related text).

Claim 4:

Garloff further discloses the method of claim 1, further comprising:

- checking a logical consistency of the code (see for example, Fig.6, "CHECK ATTRIBUTES AND METHODS FOR REFERENCES AND CORRECTNESS. DISPLAY ERRORS" and related text); and
- providing a notification if a logical inconsistency is detected (see for example, Fig.6, "DISPLAY ERRORS" and related text).

Claim 5:

Garloff also discloses the method of claim 1, further comprising:

- checking a compatibility between the model and the code (see for example, Fig.6, "CHECK ATTRIBUTES AND METHODS FOR REFERENCES AND CORRECTNESS. DISPLAY ERRORS" and related text); and
- providing a notification if an inconsistency is detected (see for example, Fig.6, "DISPLAY ERRORS" and related text).

Claim 6:

Garloff further discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the model is expressed according to a modeling language (see for example, col.5, lines 47-53,

"Modeler's language").

Claims 7-12:

Claims 7-12 are a logic (procedure/method) version for performing the claimed method in claims 1-6 addressed above, wherein all claimed limitation functions have been addressed and/or set forth above. Therefore, Garloff's teachings also anticipate claims 7-12.

Claims 13-19:

Claims 13-19 are system version for performing the claimed method as in claims 1-6 addressed above, wherein all claimed limitation functions have been addressed and/or set forth above (see for example, col.31, line 27 – col.32, line18). Therefore, Garloff's teachings also anticipate claims 13-19.

Claim 20:

Claim 20 is another method version for performing the claimed method in claims 1-6 addressed above, but Garloff does not explicitly disclose the rules are for a military theory. However, because the structure/definition about military theory has not been defined, the limitation of the military theory and/or rule of engagement can be treated as rules and directions as in Garloff (Fig.1B and related text; also see col.3, lines46-47, "Knowledge Base contains the rules and directions for generating source code from the specifications") and has no impact

to the scope of claim. It is obvious that cited rules from Garloff could be the rules for military theory or for any other theories that are non-military theory. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to design, access and display a plurality of domain/business rules also can be applied for a military theory.

Claim 21:

Garloff discloses a method for managing rules for designing a computer program, comprising:

- accessing a plurality of military theory rules for a military theory (see for example, Fig.1A, Fig.1B, "DESIGN KNOWLEDGE BASES", "SPECIFICATIONS KNOWLEDGE BASE", "GENERATION KNOWLEDGE BASES", "INHERITANCE ENGINE" and related text);
- identifying military theory rules required by the laws as a substantially complete set of domain rules of a military theory, each domain rule being invariant and expressed as a narrative description (see for example, Fig.1B, "INHERITANCE ENGINE" and related text, also see Fig.3, "DISPLAY LIST OF KBASES" and related text; also see col.4, lines 50-60 and related text);
- defining a domain from the domain rules, (see for example, col.4, lines 45-46, "The Developer writes the specifications and store them in the Specifications Knowledge Base" and related text; also see col.3, lines 18-20, "The

Developer can also use the Operator Interface to add his own specifications to the Specification Knowledge Base”);

- identifying one or more requirements of the domain from one or more supplemental sources (see for example, Col.4, lines 38-40, “By adding a Process Model, we are adding the Methods needed to perform a specific task”);
- generating a model that established the requirements of the domain (see for example, Fig.11, a model of an object and related text; also see col.4, lines 57-62, “The Developer may choose to create some Classes and Process Models that make the specification clearer or easier to complete. These Classes and Process Models, then may be considered a part of the specification.”);
- designating the other military theory rules as a plurality of business rules of the military theory, the business rules comprising a plurality of rules engagement, each business rule being variable (see for example, (Fig.1B and related text; also see col.3, lines46-47, “Knowledge Base contains the rules and directions for generating source code from the specifications”; also see Fig.3, step “Add a KBASE” and related text)); and
- providing a rule of engagement from the stored business rules in response to a request for the business rule (see for example, Fig.3, “DISPLAY LIST OF KBASES” and related text).

but Garloff does not explicitly disclose the rules are for a military theory, a plurality of legislated laws are associated with the military theory and the domain is used to determine a problem space and a solution space, substantially all solutions of the solution space can be generated from the substantially complete set of domain rules.

However, because the structure/definition about military theory has not been defined, the limitation of the military theory and/or rule of engagement can be treated as rules and directions as in Garloff (Fig.1B and related text; also see col.3, lines46-47, "Knowledge Base contains the rules and directions for generating source code from the specifications") and has no impact to the scope of claim. It is obvious that cited rules from Garloff could be the rules for military theory or for any other theories that are non-military theory. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to design, access and display a plurality of domain/business rules also can be applied for a military theory. Moreover, it is also obvious that the legislated laws associated with the military theory are some kinds of different rule/requirements for the military. The method used by Garloff to access KBASES which contains generation rules can also be used to accessing laws associated with the any theory/rule/requirement including legislated laws associated with the military theory. Further Garloff also discloses the domain (specification) which is used to fully define the functionality and operations of the application that is being built (the Target Application) and "Specification of

objects entails filling in Attribute Values, adding Subobjectes, adding process Models, modifying Methods, and adding Methods". "The developer may choose to create some Classes and Process Models that make the specifications clearer or easier. These Classes and Process Models, then may be considered a part of the specification. A Developer may also choose to create or use Functions as part of the Specification" (see for example, col.4, lines 50-60). That is, the Garloff's specification including narrative description objects or user created objects or functions required filling the attribute value, adding required methods and further generating/building the Target Application based on the specification. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to understand that such specification including objects, classes and process models is used to determine the problem and solution space (methods/functionality of objects) and also can generate developer created objects/functions into the specification (solutions)(see for example, col.4, col.4, lines 34-36, "For example, a Process Model may be added to a Window to provide the functionality needed to start another Window"; also see col.4, lines 52-54).

Claim 22:

Garloff further discloses the method of claim 21, further comprising:

- customizing the provided rule of engagement(see for example, Fig.3, "CHANGE A KBASE" and related text);

- associating the customized rule of engagement with the model (see for example, Fig.4, "CREATE FULLY INHERITED VIEW OF OBJECT" and related text); and
- generating a code corresponding to the model in order to design a computer program (see for example, Fig.2, "GENERATE", Fig.1C, "GENERATION PROCESS", Fig.7A and related text)

Claim 23:

Garloff also discloses the method of claim 21, further comprising:

- associating the domain rules with the model (see for example, Fig.1A, Fig.1B, "GENERATION KNOWLEDGE BASE" and "INHERITANCE ENGINE" and related text); and
- generating a code corresponding to the model in order to design a computer program (see for example, Fig.2, "GENERATE", Fig.1C, "GENERATION PROCESS", Fig.7A and related text).

Claim 24:

Garloff further discloses the method of claim 21, further comprising:

- allocating the domain rules and the business rules to a plurality of use cases (see for example, Fig.1A, Fig.1B, "GENERATION KNOWLEDGE BASE" and "INHERITANCE ENGINE" and related text; also see Fig.7A and related text);

- realizing the use cases (see for example, Fig.7A, "WRITE SOURCE MODULES TO DISK FILES" and related text); and
- assessing the domain rules and the business rules in accordance with the realization (see for example, Fig.6 and related text for checking).

Claims 25-28 and 33:

Claims 25-28 and 33 are system version for performing the claimed method as in claims 21-24 addressed above, wherein all claimed limitation functions have been addressed and/or set forth above (see for example, col.31, line 27 – col.32, line18). Therefore, they are also obvious by Garloff's teachings.

Claims 29-32:

Claims 29-32 are a logic (procedure/method) version for performing the claimed method in claims 21-24 addressed above, wherein all claimed limitation functions have been addressed and/or set forth above. Therefore, they are also obvious by Garloff's teachings.

Claim 34:

Claim 34 is another method version for performing the claimed method in claims 21-24 addressed above, wherein all claimed limitation functions have been addressed and/or set forth above. Therefore, it is also obvious by Garloff's teachings.

Conclusion2

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims rejection have been considered but are not persuasive. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Zheng Wei whose telephone number is (571) 270-1059 and Fax number is (571) 270-2059. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 8:00-15:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tuan Q. Dam can be reached on (571) 272-3695. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature of relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the TC 2100 Group receptionist whose telephone number is 571- 272-1000.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Z. W./
Examiner, Art Unit 2192

/Tuan Q. Dam/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2192